

REMARKS

The Examiner's action and the grounds for rejection set forth therein have been very carefully considered and the claims have been amended accordingly. Claims 6, 11 and 12-14 have been canceled. Independent claim 16 has been added. Dependent claims 7, 8 and 10 have been amended to recite dependency from amended claim 15. In addition, new claims 17-19, dependent from new claim 16 and corresponding to claims 7, 8 and 10, have been added. Finally, claim 15 has been amended to clearly distinguish it from the teachings of Horimoto. Claims 7, 8, 10 and 15-19 remain in the application.

The drawings are objected to because each figure contains the term "Figur" instead of --Figure--. This objection has now been overcome and the handwritten reference numerals and lead lines in Figure 6 have been formalized in the Replacement Sheets for all of the figures, which are submitted herewith. The Examiner's approval of these Replacement Sheets is respectfully requested.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for claim 11. Inasmuch as claim 11 has now been canceled, this ground of objection has been obviated. Claims 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, based on this objection to the specification. Both claims have now been canceled. Claim 15 also stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for failing to provide antecedent basis for the limitation "the radial dimension of the cams." By the amendments to claim 15 made herein, it is respectfully submitted that this ground of rejection has been overcome. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 15 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 6-8, 11, 12, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Horimoto. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horimoto.

Referring first to independent claim 15, the claim has been amended to recite that the cylindrical hose attachment connector and the cam ring are integrally formed in one piece and the cam ring has a plurality of cams integrally formed therewith in one piece. The claim also recites that the plurality of cams is arranged on the periphery of the cam ring and project from the cam ring in a radial direction, with the radial width dimension of the cams projecting beyond

the outside diameter of the cylindrical hose attachment connector for defining the outside diameter of the coupling. The claim goes on to recite that the outside diameter of the coupling is larger than the outside diameter of the connector by the radial width dimension of the cams. Applicant has provided marked up copies of original Figures 1 and 2 clearly showing the radial width dimension of the cams. A coupling such as is claimed in claim 15 has the advantage, *inter alia*, of fewer moving parts and fewer fitting connections which could become blocked or jammed when contaminated with dirt or grit.

Thus, claim 15 requires, whether the connector has one or multiple outside diameters, that the cams project radially from the cam ring such that their radial width projects beyond the outside diameter of the cylindrical hose attachment connector for defining the largest outside diameter of the couple, which is larger than the outside diameter of the connector by the radial width dimension of the cams. It also requires that the cam ring be integrally formed in one piece with the cylindrical hose attachment connector. Horimoto, by contrast, does not disclose a cam ring which is integrally formed in one piece with the cylindrical hose attachment connector. Horimoto, also, does not disclose an arrangement wherein the outside diameter of the coupling is now larger than the outside diameter of the connector by the radial width dimension of the cams. Notwithstanding the Examiner's position that with the outside diameter of the connector taken to be the slots bottom, the cams do project radially beyond the outside diameter of the connector, it is clear that their radial projection is not by an amount corresponding to the radial width of the cams. Moreover, this limitation of claim 15 is not fulfilled by any disclosure in Horimoto regardless of where the Examiner would choose to arbitrarily define the outside diameter of the connector.

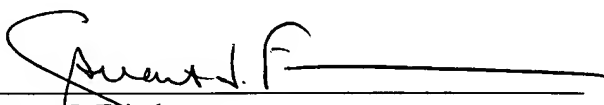
New claim 16, like claim 15, recites that the cylindrical hose attachment connector and the cam ring are integrally formed in one piece and that the cam ring has a plurality of cams integrally formed therewith in one piece. The claim also recites that, when the coupling members are assembled, the axial end face of the cams of one coupling member remain free in the axial direction and do not lie opposed to a surface of the cams or the cam ring of the other coupling member. This can be seen quite clearly in Figures 4 and 5 of the instant application, which show the coupled position of the mating claws, especially when viewed in conjunction

with Figure 3. These Figures show that the axial end face of the cams is actually free of mechanical contact and do not lie opposed to a surface of the cams or the cam ring of the other coupling member. Applicant has provided marked up copies of original Figures 3 and 4 which make this arrangement perfectly clear. These limitations of claim 16 are neither disclosed nor suggested in Horimoto. To the contrary, with reference to Horimoto Figures 3 and 10, it is quite clear that the axial end face of the cams is opposed by the cam ring of the other coupling member.

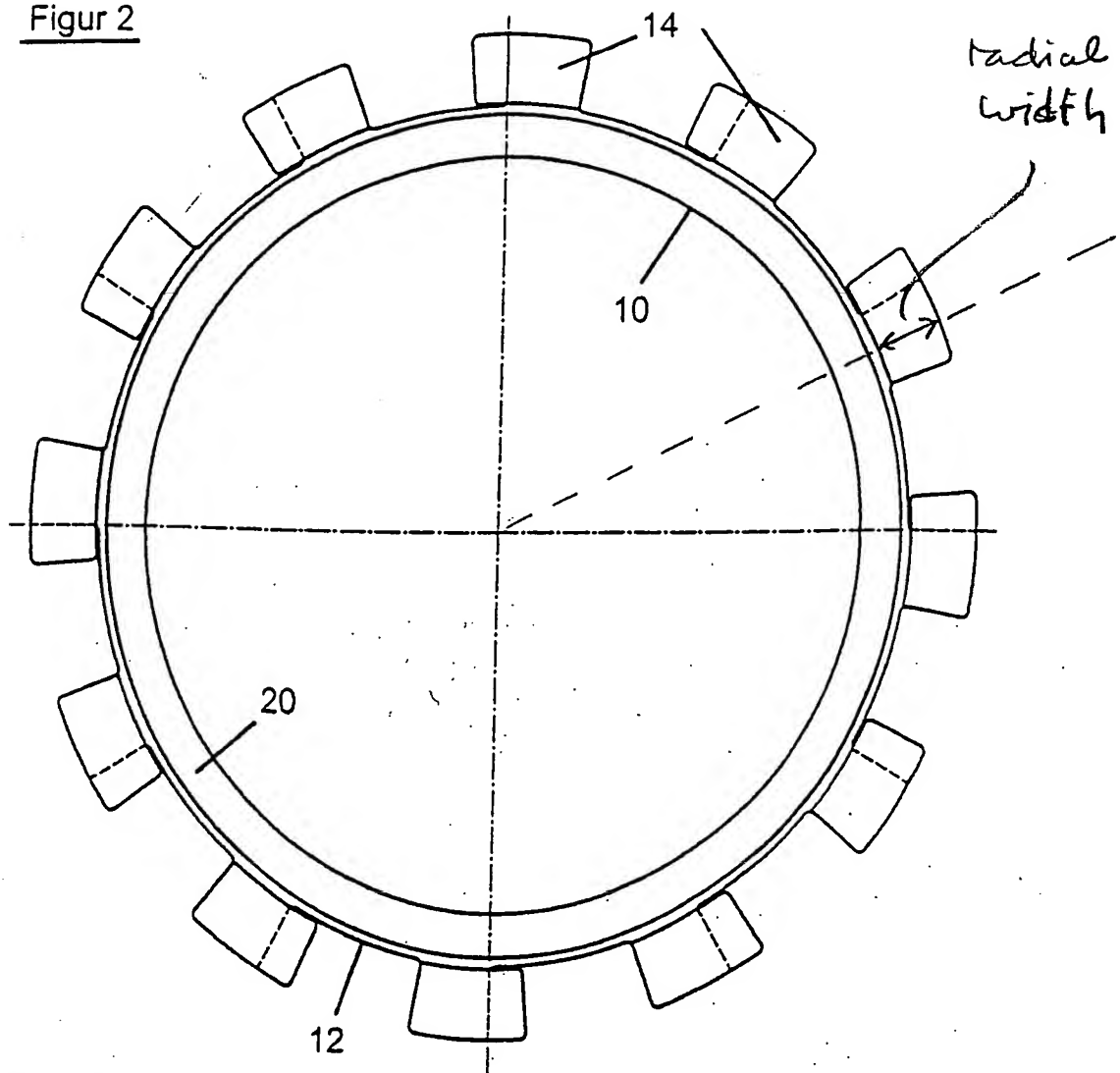
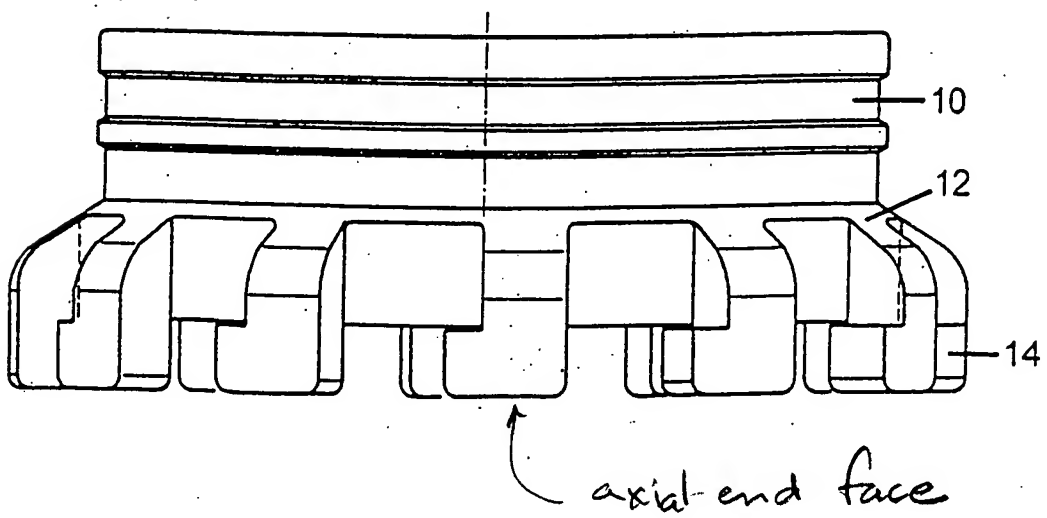
For the foregoing reasons, Horimoto fails to anticipate either of independent claims 15 or 16 under 35 USC 102(b). Moreover, claim 10 (and new claim 19) of the instant application, which stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Horimoto is, in fact, allowable at least because it depends from allowable independent claim 15.

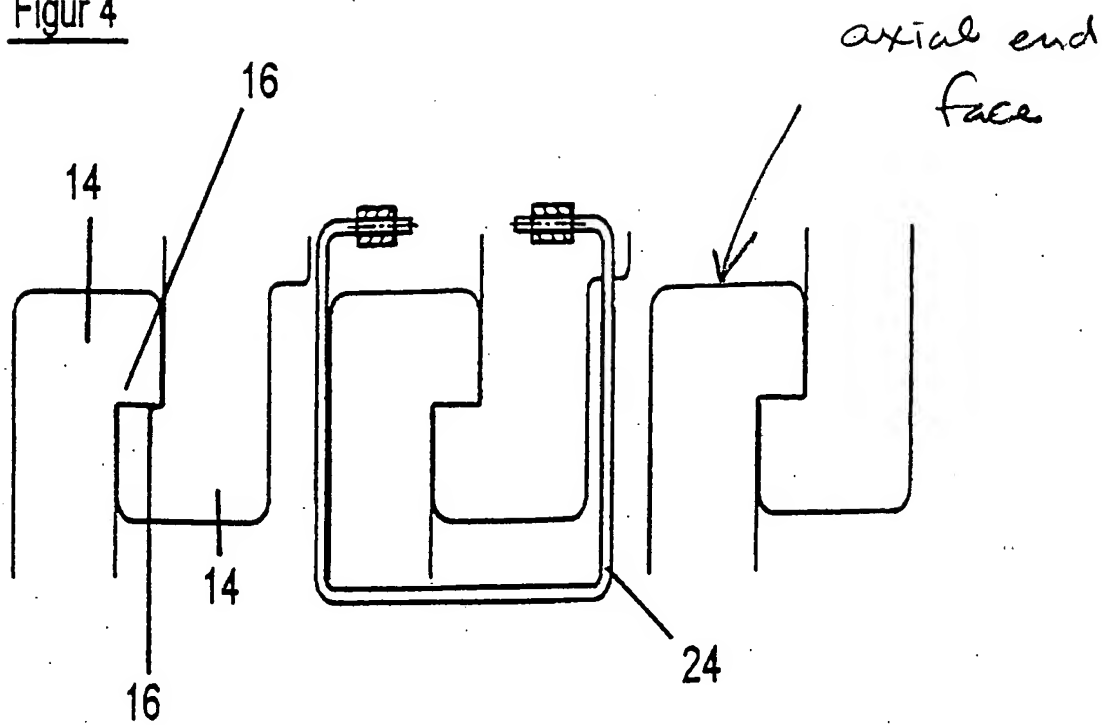
For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a) over Horimoto should be reconsidered and withdrawn in light of the amendments to claim 15 and the addition of new claim 16, and that an early notice of allowance issue directed to remaining pending claims 7, 8, 10 and 15-19. Should the Examiner deem that any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution and engage in a joint effort to work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

Respectfully submitted,

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Figur 2Figur 3

Figur 4Figur 5